



SDMS Doc ID 2015034

# Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

## Water storage agreement to increase local supply

By **JOE FLORKOWSKI**  
**STAFF WRITER**

**Thursday, June 19, 2003 -**

**RANCHO CUCAMONGA** — Southern California's largest water agency reached an agreement with local water agencies to store more than 30 billion gallons of water in the vast aquifer that lies below much of the Inland Valley.

The 25-year storage agreement is expected to decrease Inland Valley cities' dependence on importing water and improve water reliability for Metropolitan Water District customers.

The agreement will increase water reliability for all Metropolitan customers, said Ron Gastelum, chief executive officer of Metropolitan.

"Metropolitan is very pleased to be a part of this conjunctive use program not only because it helps us better serve our customers in the Inland Empire but in the rest of the region," Gastelum said.

Thursday's agreement, signed by Metropolitan, Inland Empire Utilities District, Three Valleys Municipal Water District and Chino Basin Watermaster officials, took more than two years to complete and affects cities that pump water from the Basin, including Chino, Chino Hills and Ontario. Water districts which serve the basin's cities such as Cucamonga County and Monte Vista water districts.

Metropolitan will begin storing water in the aquifer, called the Chino Ground Water Basin, this summer. The agreement allows the Los Angeles-based water agency to store up to 100,000 acre-feet of water in the basin during rainy years.

During dry years Inland Valley agencies and cities, which normally import water from Metropolitan, will withdraw water from the basin instead. They will be able to withdraw up to 33,000 acre-feet per year which is enough water to supply more than 65,000 households.

Metropolitan can then deliver water to other member agencies during those dry years.

Inland Valley cities and agencies will also receive \$27.5 million from Metropolitan and state bond funds to construct new wells and treatment facilities to pump the water from the basin in dry years.

Constructing treatment facilities benefits Inland Valley cities because they can clean up the water from the basin using Metropolitan funds and not their own municipal budgets, said Dennis Yates, chairman of Watermaster.

Storing water in the basin is a good first step but more similar projects will be needed to increase the region's self-sufficiency, said Richard Hansen, general manager of Three Valleys.

"By having enough local projects, we can have a dependable supply," Hansen said.

Watermaster is currently negotiating with other water suppliers to store water in the basin, Yates said.

In the long-term, local agencies and cities would like to be totally self-sufficient when it comes to water, Yates said.

"Our goal is to eventually be solely independent and never have to purchase water from Metropolitan," Yates said.

Joe Florkowski can be reached by e-mail at [joe.florkowski@dailybulletin.com](mailto:joe.florkowski@dailybulletin.com) or by phone at (909) 597-6389.